

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037317 TOSEC 020091

EXDIS HABIB AND CARTER FROM BROWN (S/PRS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (CYRUS R. VANCE), VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM

NO. 12

1. THIS IS TO ALERT YOU THAT OUR VIETNAM NEGOTIATIONS  
PRESS LINE, HAVING SERVED REMARKABLY WELL FOR 9  
DAYS, IS FRAYING. UPI HAS CARRIED TWOSTORIES IN LAST  
12 HOURS REPORTING CONTACTS WITH VIETNAMESE. KEY PORTION  
OF TODAY'S STORY IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. BY NICHOLAS DANILOFF, WASHINGTON, UPI: "THE CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION HAS ASKED NORTH VIETNAM TO RECEIVE A HIGH-  
LEVEL U.S. DELEGATION -- POSSIBLY INCLUDING SEVERAL  
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CONGRESSMEN -- BUT HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE, INFORMED  
SOURCES SAID TODAY;

THE SOURCES SAID THE PROPOSED MISSION WOULD BE TO SEEK A  
FULL ACCOUNTING OF U.S. SERVICEMEN MISSING IN ACTION, AND  
TO OPEN UP DISCUSSION ON MENDING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE  
NATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS DECLINED COMMENT, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THE REQUEST TO HANOI STILL IS CONSIDERED HIGHLY SENSITIVE BY THE NEW

ADMINISTRATION.

HOWEVER, THE REPORT WAS CONSISTENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLEDGE FRIDAY TO SEND A DELEGATION TO NORTH VIETNAM."

3. IN TODAY'S (FEBRUARY 17) BRIEFING I WAS QUESTIONED AT SOME LENGTH, PARTICULARLY BY MARVIN KALB, ON AUTHENTICITY OF THESE REPORTS. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH WHITE HOUSE I HELD STRICTLY TO LINE THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT PRESIDENT SAID FEBRUARY 11, BUT OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT GIVE CATEGORICAL DENIALS. ALTHOUGH FEW HARD FACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED, PRESS CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SOMETHING IN PARIS IS INDEED GOING ON AND WILL NO DOUBT PROBE FURTHER ON HILL AND ELSEWHERE. WHICH LEADS US TO NEED FOR NEW TACTICS AND FRESH PRESS GUIDANCE.

4. DICK HOLBROOKE HAS RAISED THESE DEVELOPMENT WITH DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER AND NSC (AARON), SUGGESTING THAT WHITE HOUSE ADDRESS SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM OF HOW TO PROCEED NEXT, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE PRESIDENTIAL DECISION. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BE DONE IN NEXT 24 HOURS. IN THE INTERIM, BOTH WE AND WHITE HOUSE WILL STICK WITH OLD GUIDANCE. WILL ADVISE YOU SOONEST WHEN NEW LINE IS DEVELOPED.

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HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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